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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 11, 1983

Chief, House Liaison Division
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505


Dear Bob:

Under the provisions of Senate Resolution 400, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is charged with the responsibility "to oversee and make continuing studies of the intelligence activities and programs of the United States Government, and to...report to the Senate concerning such intelligence activities and programs."

Most of the work of the Committee is, of necessity, conducted in secret. Nonetheless, the Committee believes that intelligence activities should be as accountable as possible. Therefore, the Committee has routinely published an unclassified report of its oversight activities every two years since its establishment in the spring of 1976.

Enclosed for your information is the most recent copy of this report, covering the oversight activities of the Select Committee on Intelligence during the 97th Congress (January 1, 1981 to December 31, 1982). I recommend it to you and would welcome any comments which you might want to offer regarding it.

Sincerely,


Robert R. Simmons
Staff Director

RRS:rn

Enclosures

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developments in Third World countries, international terrorism, and narcotics.

Mr. President, even covert action, the most secret and sensitive activity of the intelligence community, comes under the scrutiny of the Intelligence Committee. The committee has received detailed reports and has heard testimony on covert action programs, and has actively monitored the progress of those programs once launched. Certain covert action programs have been modified to take into account views expressed by the committee. Under the provisions of Senate Resolution 400, the committee has also provided briefings on some programs to members of other committees.

In addition, the committee has been active in reviewing covert action during the annual budget authorization process. In that connection, the committee has continued its practice of annual review of each covert action line-item by line-item. Given the sensitivity of information regarding covert action, and the Presidential findings regarding it, this report does not discuss the details of these matters although they occupied a substantial amount of time and attention of our committee members.

This report shows that the committee and staff were involved in many areas of interest to our national security and foreign policy. For example, we have examined whether the intelligence community was effectively responding to the situation in Central

America. The committee also made an inquiry into the conduct of the Director of Central Intelligence. It looked into the serious problems of technology transfer and it supported legislation to protect our agents' identities from being disclosed.

Recent years have witnessed a growth in public awareness of the importance of intelligence that is timely, relevant, and of the highest quality. Accurate intelligence is required for informed decisionmaking on many critical defense and foreign policy issues, such as the development of national nuclear weapons programs or Soviet use of chemical agents in warfare.

Mr. President, my firm belief has always been that good intelligence is needed to protect the kind of freedom we enjoy in our great country. I believe this report will also show that we are getting good intelligence information which is so vital to our survival as a people and a Nation. I hope that this report will also show that congressional oversight of intelligence activities is effective, and that the American people are better off because of it.

In concluding, I would like to thank all of the staff for its fine work over the course of the 97th Congress. As well, I would like to thank Robin Cleveland, a professional staff member of the committee, who bore the major burden of preparing this report and coordinating its production with the members of our committee.

*Burt/Bob
Do we know of these.
This may be important is
terms of Rep. Studds desire to
have covert action info given to
HPSCI shared w/ HPAC.
Pou*